



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending September 11, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

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*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)*

**Excellent Week for Field Work:** It was a very dry week in the Keystone State with minimal rainfall reported. Dry conditions continue to put stress on crops and pastures with little relief in the forecast. Overall, 7 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, haymaking, harvesting peaches and apples, planting barley, cutting silage, and filling silos.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 11, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
32	51	17	0

**Crops:** Fall plowing is now 26 percent complete, slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Sixteen percent of the soybean crop is now dropping leaves, the same as last year's pace. Soybean conditions declined from last week as 49 percent of the crop is now rated as either good or excellent. Ninety-three percent of the corn crop is at or beyond the dough stage, and 77 percent of the crop is dented. Both crop stages are behind last year's pace but ahead of the 5-year average. Thirty-four percent of corn acreage is mature, and 7 percent of the crop is now harvested. Corn crop conditions declined slightly from last week as 50 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. The corn silage harvest is in full swing and is now 48 percent complete, well ahead of the 5-year average. Forty-five percent of potatoes and 90 percent of the tobacco crop are now harvested. Thirty-three percent of next year's barley crop is planted, and 21 percent of the crop is already emerged. Both are well ahead of the historic pace. Ninety-five percent of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cutting and 39 percent of the 4<sup>th</sup> cutting of alfalfa are now complete. Ninety percent of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting of timothy is now complete. The quality of hay made this week was excellent and was rated with the following: 5 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 34 percent excellent.

Eighty-three percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent. Twenty-nine percent of apples and 93 percent of peaches are now harvested.

**Livestock:** Some producers are still being forced to feed hay stocks as dry conditions have caused serious concerns in pastures statewide. Pasture conditions dropped to one of their lowest levels of the year and were rated with the following: 37 percent very poor, 32 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 9 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

**U.S. as of September 4, 2005:** Highlights: Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Louisiana Gulf Coast Monday morning, bringing category 4 winds, storm surge, and heavy rainfall. As the storm moved further inland, tropical-storm-force winds were felt as far north as Tennessee, and heavy rainfall extended into the Northeast. However, damage to crops was mainly limited to the northern Delta, while further north, in the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley, crops benefited from the additional moisture. Elsewhere across the Nation, conditions were mostly dry, with only scattered, light-to-moderate rainfall. Corn: Ninety-six percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage, compared with 87 percent last year and 93 percent for the 5-year average. Doughing was at or ahead of the normal pace in all States, except Colorado. Acreage in the dent stage advanced to 79 percent, 20 points ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of normal. The crop was mature on 20 percent of the acreage, 4 points ahead of last year but 2 points behind normal. Soybeans: Fifteen percent of the crop was dropping leaves, 1 point ahead of last year but the same as the 5-year average. Small Grains: Barley producers had harvested 90 percent of their acreage, compared with 75 percent last year and 85 percent for the 5-year average.

# Weather Data For Week Ending September 11, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 11, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	80	53	67	1	0.38	1	15.00	-4.91	53	2,588	357	4,042
Franklin	79	49	64	0	0.10	1	19.46	-2.93	88	2,328	238	3,830
Meadville	79	51	65	3	0.08	1	19.45	-2.82	62	2,419	503	3,917
Mercer	80	50	65	2	0.10	1	20.55	-0.69	85	2,399	330	3,879
Springboro	80	46	63	-3	0.30	2	20.83	1.24	68	2,211	3	3,649
Warren	82	50	65	2	0.09	1	16.92	-5.44	64	2,304	275	3,786
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	75	40	59	-1	0.02	2	21.20	-1.19	71	1,796	311	3,205
Emporium	80	48	64	3	0.00	0	14.52	-7.83	66	2,294	624	3,777
Kane	77	40	59	0	0.00	0	17.09	-5.67	59	1,733	276	3,133
Laporte	77	43	62	-3	0.00	0	21.60	0.99	73	2,089	9	3,528
Lock Haven	82	48	67	3	0.00	0	11.80	-8.54	55	2,632	430	4,165
Port Allegany	79	46	61	2	0.00	0	16.30	-4.82	59	1,979	344	3,392
Renovo	82	49	66	2	0.00	0	11.57	-8.77	53	2,595	393	4,127
Ridgway	78	44	61	1	0.22	1	17.83	-4.52	62	2,008	338	3,465
Stevenson Dam	81	51	66	6	0.00	0	14.95	-7.40	64	2,434	764	3,948
Towanda	82	43	65	2	0.00	0	15.49	-1.63	54	2,424	328	3,920
Wellsboro	77	42	60	0	0.00	0	20.26	3.08	56	1,951	373	3,363
Williamsport	81	47	66	0	0.00	0	19.59	-0.43	49	2,786	359	4,330
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	83	39	64	2	0.00	0	15.65	-3.86	57	2,172	372	3,632
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	47	68	4	0.00	0	11.74	-7.22	53	2,849	545	4,393
Susquehanna	81	43	63	3	0.00	0	18.16	-2.67	65	2,318	605	3,795
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	81	48	65	0	0.19	1	18.02	-3.23	62	2,444	279	3,988
New Castle	85	51	67	2	0.08	1	21.05	1.78	60	2,654	489	4,194
Slippery Rock	82	50	66	3	0.07	1	19.72	-0.94	64	2,467	516	4,021
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	82	44	64	-2	0.00	0	10.55	-7.83	43	2,386	80	3,909
DuBois	77	49	63	1	0.00	0	16.05	-5.30	78	2,244	241	3,749
Lewistown	85	49	67	1	0.00	0	14.62	-5.20	51	2,758	230	4,323
Middletown	85	56	71	2	0.00	0	15.34	-4.23	47	3,207	358	4,812
Prince Gallitzi	81	44	62	-2	0.00	0	15.65	-8.04	66	2,122	264	3,598
Selinsgrove	85	48	67	2	0.00	0	16.92	-3.52	53	2,672	303	4,217
State College	80	50	66	2	0.00	0	11.45	-7.13	57	2,623	342	4,177
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	86	50	68	1	0.00	0	18.43	-3.00	56	2,882	274	4,461
Lehighton	82	48	65	-2	0.00	0	18.35	-2.92	56	2,628	107	4,186
Matamoras	83	47	65	1	0.00	0	18.21	-3.31	62	2,325	43	3,824
Tobyhanna	83	47	66	7	0.00	0	20.93	-1.90	82	2,578	1,003	4,124
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	81	53	68	2	0.01	1	14.89	-4.77	66	2,919	602	4,508
Derry	82	50	66	2	0.00	0	18.96	-1.54	56	2,479	290	4,025
Myersdale	82	41	61	-5	0.09	1	15.71	-6.59	58	1,939	-215	3,392
Mount Pleasant	81	45	63	-2	0.00	0	20.30	-3.05	71	2,417	460	3,966
Pittsburgh Intl	80	53	67	0	0.00	0	18.74	0.20	61	2,775	352	4,347
Rector	81	49	65	2	0.00	0	18.38	-4.97	84	2,426	469	3,972
Waynesburg	83	48	65	0	0.00	0	16.23	-4.12	57	2,520	272	4,078
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	83	52	68	-2	0.00	0	19.98	1.65	57	2,831	48	4,414
Everett	83	43	61	-5	0.00	0	10.09	-7.81	52	2,001	-294	3,480
Hanover	84	47	67	-3	0.00	0	20.37	2.04	52	2,813	30	4,387
Shippensburg	86	51	68	-2	0.00	0	19.83	1.93	63	2,866	102	4,437
South Mountain	78	48	63	-3	0.00	0	19.18	0.80	53	2,433	134	4,016
York	85	45	66	-3	0.00	0	14.15	-5.71	45	2,841	72	4,414
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	85	52	68	2	0.00	0	16.50	-4.28	50	2,881	388	4,467
Hamburg	86	49	68	4	0.00	0	18.09	-5.85	50	2,885	600	4,465
Hopewell	85	52	69	-2	0.00	0	20.37	-1.31	72	2,893	-32	4,481
Lancaster	85	51	69	2	0.00	0	19.40	-1.58	50	2,947	312	4,531
Neshaminy Falls	86	51	68	1	0.00	0	20.24	-3.92	45	2,733	129	4,294
New Holland	88	55	71	4	0.00	0	16.08	-4.90	48	3,021	386	4,609
Philadelphia	86	59	73	3	0.00	0	16.87	-3.64	47	3,367	354	4,994
Philadelphia NE	87	56	71	1	0.00	0	19.38	-1.13	49	3,276	263	4,892
Reading	86	53	70	3	0.00	0	16.32	-6.05	52	3,092	501	4,682
Valley Forge Na	86	48	68	-2	0.00	0	17.25	-4.43	37	2,754	-171	4,310
Willow Grove	85	54	69	2	0.00	0	16.99	-7.17	39	3,025	421	4,627

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA)** - The daytime temperatures in Adams County this week were around 75-80 degrees with nighttime temperatures around 60 degrees. Overall for the county, the crops look good pending any weather conditions that could change that status.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Neil Starnner (FSA)** - Cool nighttime temperatures really have helped the apples coloring process. No rain was received this week, but the county could use a little moisture to keep crops going. Wheat and barley and alfalfa are starting to be planted. Corn and soybeans look good and are starting to dry down with leaves changing colors. Corn silage continues to be harvested. Peach harvest should be completed in another two weeks. Apples look good, and some varieties are large in size and are 7 to 10 days later in ripening. They continue to harvest the early varieties of apples.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT)** - Corn is maturing rapidly, and earlier plantings are drying down quickly. Beans are yellowing. We needed some rain to finish off the later planted crops, but it's getting too late to be of any help now. Forage seedings are having a rough time getting out of the ground due to lack of moisture.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - Producers were busy harvesting corn silage. Most potato harvesting directly from the field is done and now they are being put in storage. The yield is lower than normal for both corn and potatoes. Many potatoes are small.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - No rain during the week. Nice late summer days allowed for corn silage harvesting and haymaking.

**CHESTER COUNTY, Samuel High (NRCS)** - The continuing dry weather appears to be hurting late soybean production and late hay production.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice)** - Very dry. The local area will have low yields. Test weights a concern for corn, and ears are small. Soybeans will be small as well. With commodity prices dropping, high fuel prices, and expected low yields, farmers are not very optimistic heading into harvest.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - Another good work week. Most farmers have started filling silos and bunks with corn. Haymaking is still continuing with the warm weather.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - Harvesting of corn silage with reports of 8 to 24 tons per acre. Soybeans appear to be in good condition. Many pods with beans are a good size. This area needs rain badly.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS)** - Corn silage is drying down fast. Farmers are busy harvesting silage, tobacco, and pumpkins. Some farmers are waiting to plant small grains due to the lack of moisture.

**POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA)** - Another dry week that was spent harvesting hay and corn silage. Corn is drying very quickly. Ground moisture is very short.

**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA)** - Growers in Schuylkill County are still looking for that significant rainfall. Corn shelling commenced this past week with fair yields being reported in most areas of the county. The westernmost section is being cruised by crop insurance adjusters, and yields are showing up to 80 percent losses. Low prices and low yields don't point to a prosperous year.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C Sheaffer** - The rainfall from Katrina has gone, and the crops are suffering. Farmers are making hay that is yielding below normal but is of good quality. Silage making is getting into full swing as the corn is drying down very fast. The soybeans are turning colors with a few leaves beginning to drop; however, the crop looks good. The main activities for the week were plowing, making hay, and cutting silage.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - Hot, dry, and dusty. Corn chopping started. It's drying down fast with the warm, windy conditions. It would be nice weather to make hay only if it was tall enough to mow. We could use a shower to settle the dust.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS)** - Producers have related to me that their 3<sup>rd</sup> cutting of hay will be better than the second cutting. They have credited the recent rains for the better crop.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - This season's hot, dry conditions are quickly maturing corn and soybeans. Other crops like pumpkins have also ripened early. With no rain, some nice hay was harvested this week. Because of low grain prices, the potential for increased input costs next spring, and lower expected crop yields this season because of dry conditions, many producers are holding on to more than normal 2004-crop carry over.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 11, 2005**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	26	28	23
Corn, dough	93	96	88
Corn, dent	77	81	66
Corn, mature	34	33	22
Corn, harvested	7	10	6
Corn silage, harvested	48	53	33
Barley, planted	33	8	8
Barley, emerged	21	1	3
Wheat, planted	6	2	6
Tobacco, harvested	90	94	74
Potatoes, harvested	45	47	42
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	95	90	83
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	39	33	37
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	90	90	83
Peaches, harvested	93	89	95
Apples, harvested	29	40	34

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 11, 2005**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	5	11	34	40	10
Soybeans	3	11	37	38	11
Quality of hay made	5	4	20	37	34
Pasture	37	32	20	9	2
Apples	3	3	11	55	28

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